

Determination Of $H_{\text{min-cert}}$

As agreed by the informal Working Group on Certification (IWGC), all States Parties agree that a consistent methodology of technical interpretation for certification is desirable to ensure acceptable results.

The Treaty on Open Skies, Annex D, Section III, paragraph 1 and (B), states:

“In addition to conducting a ground examination of the observation aircraft and its sensors, the State Party conducting the certification shall conduct one in-flight examination of its sensors which shall be sufficient to:...

- (B) in the event that the ground resolution of a sensor is dependent upon height above ground level, establish the minimum height above ground level from which each such sensor installed on an observation aircraft of that type and model shall be operated for any observation flight, in accordance with the limitation on ground resolution specified in Article IV, paragraph 2 of the Treaty; ...”

Therefore, States Parties have indicated that they are prepared to use the following methodology during certification to determine the $H_{\text{min-cert}}$ for certifications of optical and video cameras.

$H_{\text{min-cert}}$ will be based upon a methodology of validating $H_{\text{min-exp}}$, which is derived from a substantial quantity of data previously collected. $H_{\text{min-exp}}$ becomes $H_{\text{min-cert}}$, if H_{min} - calculated during the certification flight is within ± 20 per cent of $H_{\text{min-exp}}$. In accordance with the Sensor Guidance Document (SGD), higher variations should not be considered surprising and are subject to discussion.